

## INQUIRY INTO EMISSIONS FROM THE FOSSIL FUEL SECTOR

**Organisation:** Action for Public Transport (NSW) Inc.

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# Action for Public Transport (N.S.W.) Inc.

Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney 2000  
*Submitted via inquiry website*

P O Box K606  
Haymarket NSW 1240  
22 August 2025

Dear Secretary,

## **NSW Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future**

### **Emissions from the fossil fuel sector**

#### **Submission to inquiry**

#### **Introduction**

Action for Public Transport (NSW) Inc. is a transport advocacy group which has been active since 1974. We promote the interests of beneficiaries of public transport - passengers and the wider community alike.

#### **Discussions of particular terms of reference**

1. That the Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future inquire into and report on the scale and nature of current and likely future direct greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel projects and related infrastructure in New South Wales, and in particular:
  - a. the relevance and consequences of fossil fuel greenhouse gas emissions for achieving New South Wales emissions reductions targets and complying with the guiding principles and purposes of the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023

We think it critically important to take immediate effective action to reduce fossil fuel greenhouse gas emissions. We point out that shifting fossil-fueled car trips onto public transport where practicable is a recognised method of reducing undesirable emissions.

- b. quantification and measurement of coal-mine and gas industry methane and related greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales including fugitive emissions, in particular:
      - i. the accuracy of emissions reporting from coal mines and gas fields
      - ii. the relevance of using a twenty-year versus one-hundred-year global warming potential to assess short term climate impact
      - iii. current measurement, reporting and verification methods and whether they reflect best practice

We make no submission on these Terms

- c. the transparency, timeliness and integrity of New South Wales' emission modelling and how this modelling is used to inform New South Wales' planning decisions

We are disappointed that current projects around Sydney include the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway work, the M12 and the inner M6. All of these roads will increase fossil fuel emissions. We are also disappointed that several coal mining and oil or gas extraction projects have been approved recently.

- d. the implementation and feasibility of greenhouse gas abatement, including ventilation air methane (VAM) abatement for coal mining

We make no submission on this Term

- e. economic costs associated with greenhouse gas emissions including indirect costs from climate change related impacts and opportunity costs for other sectors, and

We think that proper analysis should show net benefits from reducing fossil fuel emissions.

- f. any other related matters.

We make no submission on this Term

## **Conclusions**

The end point of any national emissions reduction strategy must be to reduce the economic role of fossil fuel extraction and use. Therefore, any relative move towards renewable energy sources in the overall economy will tend to reduce the role and size of the fossil fuel industry, and hence reduce the overall emissions from that sector. This would be in addition to that sector's actions (if enacted) to reduce emissions per energy unit of output.

Extraction of fossil fuels for export should follow the same principles as extraction for domestic consumption.

## **Recommendation**

We think that petrol retailing is part of the fossil fuel industry and hence comes under this Inquiry. We recommend a return to bulk haulage of petrol by rail to country centres, for reasons both of emissions and road safety.

We recommend that the Committee bear public transport amplification in mind when deliberating for this Inquiry.

## **Hearings**

We would be pleased to appear at hearings if desired.

Jim Donovan  
Secretary  
Action for Public Transport (NSW) Inc.